

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11

MMO-01 OMB-01 ACDA-12 /090 W

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P R 281341Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY VICTORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 859

INFO AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBSSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

SECDEF

COMIDEASTFOR

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VICTORIA 369

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, XA

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS AT OPENING OF CONFERENCE OF PROGRESSIVE
PARTIES OF SOUTHWEST INDIAN OCEAN

REF VICTORIA 368 DTG R281340Z APR 78

1. REFTEL IS REVISED OFFICIAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE TRANSLATION OF
SPEECH DELIVERED AT APRIL 27 OPENING OF CONFERENCE OF PROGRESSIVE
PARTIES OF THE SOUTHWEST INDIAN OCEAN. IT ACCORDS WITH FRENCH
TEXT AND SPEECH. ORIGINAL TRANSLATION WHICH WAS CIRCULATED DIT
NOT ACCORD WITH FRENCH TEXT OR WITH WHAT SEYCHELLES PRESIDENT
F.A. RENE ACTUALLY SAID.

2. RENE TOLD CHARGE AT AIRPORT PRIOR TO HIS APRIL 27 DEPARTURE ON
VISIT TO PRC AND NORTH KOREA THAT ORIGINAL ENGLISH TRANSLATION WAS
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PREPARED FROM AN EARLY DRAFT. COMPARISON OF THE TEXTS INDICATES
THAT MAJOR SUBSTANTIVE CHANGE WAS INCLUSION IN DRAFT OF FOLLOWING
STATEMENTS WHICH WERE LATER DELETED: QTE IN SPITE OF THE PROTESTS
OF LITTORAL STATES THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED KINGDOM HAVE,
FOR YEARS CHOSEN TO CONTINUE THE CONSTRUCTION AND EXPANSIONS
(SIC) OF THE DIEGO GARCIA BASE... THIS HAS BEEN JUSTIFIED ON THE
PRETENSE THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAS ITS FLEET IN THE INDIAN

OCEAN, AND THAT THE OIL ROUTE HAS TO BE PROTECTED...THE SOVIET UNION, ON THE OTHER HAND, ARGUES THAT THERE MUST BE A BALANCE OF POWER IN THE AREA...THE SIMPLER ANSWER TO BOTH GREAT POWERS IS THAT IF THEY WERE NOT THERE THERE WOULD BE DANGER, THERE WOULD BE NO RIVALRY, THERE WOULD BE NO NEED TO BALANCE ANYTHING. IN FACT, BEFORE THEY CAME THERE WAS PEACE IN OUR OCEAN UNQTE.

3. IN SPEECH, AS DELIVERED, RENE DID NOT MENTION U.S., U.K. OR SOVIET UNION BY NAME AND DID NOT EVEN USE TERM DIEGO GARCIA. ONLY REFERENCE TO U.S. FACILITY THERE WAS REMARK THAT"...BASES CONTINUE TO EXIST. THE ONE ON THE ISLAND OF CHAGOS IS AN EXAMPLE; AND THERE ARE OTHERS PURSUING THEIR DEVELOPMENT."

4. UNDERSTAND LOCAL BBC/REUTERS STRINGER HAS FORWARDED INCORRECT TRANSLATION TO LONDON.

5. COMMENT: TRANSLATION FOUL-UP DID NOT APPEAR TO HAVE UPSET RENE AND EARLY DRAFT DOES PROVIDE INSIGHT INTO HIS VIEWS ON DEMILITARIZATION OF INDIAN OCEAN. AT SAME TIME, REVISION SUGGESTS RENE HAD SECOND THOUGHTS ON POSSIBLE INTERNATIONAL IMPACT OF HARDER LINE STATEMENT WHICH IS REINFORCED BY SIDE REMARK TO BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER THAT HE WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO BEING "THOUSANDS OF MILES AWAY FROM SEYCHELLES" WHEN CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS DEAL WITH DEMILITARIZATION ISSUE.
MATTSON

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